

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Melissa Reynolds

Plaintiff,

v.

Convergent Outsourcing, Inc., et al.

Defendants.

Hon. Jose L. Linares

Civil Action No. 17-7258

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

THIS MATTER having come before the Court for a scheduling conference pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on 3/5/18; and for good cause shown:

IT IS on this 5th day of March, 2018

ORDERED THAT:

I. DISCLOSURES

1. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 disclosures are to be exchanged on or before **3/19/18**.

II. DISCOVERY

2. Fact discovery is to remain open through **12/17/18**. No discovery is to be issued or engaged in beyond that date, except upon application and for good cause shown.
3. The parties may serve interrogatories limited to twenty-five (25) single questions and requests for production of documents on or before **4/5/18**, to be responded to **within thirty (30) days of receipt**.
4. No objections to questions posed at depositions shall be made other than as to lack of foundation, form or privilege. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(d) (3) (A). No instruction not to answer shall be given unless a privilege is implicated.
5. Any discovery dispute shall be brought to the Court's attention in the first instance by letter or by telephone conference call immediately after the parties' good faith attempt to resolve the dispute has failed. See L. Civ. R. 16.1(f)(1).

6. No discovery motion or motion for sanctions for failure to provide discovery shall be made without prior leave of Court.

III. DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY ORDERS

7. Any proposed confidentiality order agreed to by the parties must strictly comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and Local Civil Rule 5.3. See also Pansy v. Borough of Stroudsburg, 23 F.3d 772 (3d Cir. 1994); Glenmede Trust Company v. Thompson, 56 F.3d 476 (3d Cir. 1995). Any such order must be clearly designated “**Confidentiality Order**.” See L. Civ. R. 5.3. “No form of order submitted by parties shall supersede the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 5.3] with regard to the filing of materials or judicial proceedings.” Id.

IV. FUTURE CONFERENCES

8. There shall be a **telephone status conference** before the undersigned on **5/23/18 at 10:00 a.m.** Counsel for plaintiff is to initiate the call to 973-645-2580.

9. The Court may from time to time schedule conferences as may be required, either sua sponte or at the request of a party.

10. Counsel should be prepared to discuss settlement at every conference with the Court. The senior attorney in charge of the case must attend all settlement conferences and client(s) with full settlement authority must either attend or be immediately available by telephone. In cases involving insurance companies and other corporate or business entities, it is expected that the executive who will make the final decision on the settlement will be the person available for the conference.

11. Since all dates set forth herein are established with the assistance and knowledge of counsel, there will be no extensions except for good cause shown and by leave of Court, even with consent of all counsel.

12. A copy of every pleading, document or written communication with the Court shall be served on all other parties to the action. Any such communication which does not recite or contain a certification of such service may be disregarded by the Court.

V. MOTIONS

13. Any motion to add new parties, whether by amended or third-party complaint, must be filed not later than **6/29/18**.

14. Any motion to amend pleadings must be filed not later than **6/29/18**.

15. Any motions for leave to amend must be accompanied by a black-lined or red-lined version of the proposed amended pleading showing all changes to the prior version. This shall be submitted as an exhibit in support of the motion. The Court may administratively terminate any motion that does not include such an exhibit.

16. **Motions to seal must comply with Local Civil Rule 5.3.**

17. **No motions are to be filed without prior written permission from this Court. All dispositive motions must first be subject to a dispositive motion pre-hearing in order to assure proper calendar control.** These prerequisites must be met before any motions are filed and the motions will be returned if not met. All calendar or dispositive motions, if permitted, shall comply with Local Civil Rules 7.1(b), and 78.1.

18. Dispositive motions, if any, are to be filed by **(TBD)**.

VI. EXPERTS

19. Expert discovery is to remain open through **4/1/19**.

20. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(D), the parties shall identify their experts and deliver their expert reports in accordance with the following deadlines:

a. All affirmative expert reports shall be delivered on or before **1/14/19**. Any such report shall be in the form and content as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) (2) (B).

b. All responding expert reports shall be delivered on or before **2/4/19**. Any such report shall be in the form and content as described above.

21. No expert shall testify at trial as to any opinions or base those opinions on facts not substantially disclosed in his report.

VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

22. A final pretrial conference shall be conducted pursuant to Civil Rule 16(d) at a **time and date to be assigned**.

23. Pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 15 of this Court's form of Final Pretrial Order, all pretrial submissions must be served upon the Court **forty-eight (48) hours** prior to the final pretrial conference.

24. All counsel are directed to assemble at the office of plaintiff's counsel not later than ten (10) days before the pretrial conference to prepare the proposed Final Pretrial Order in the form and content required by the Court, as well as the required pretrial submissions consisting of agreed-upon jury instructions, voir dire questions, verdict sheet, trial briefs and a neutral statement of the case to be read to the jury panel, all of which must be submitted **forty-eight (48) hours** before the final pretrial conference. Plaintiff's counsel shall prepare the Pretrial Order and shall submit it to all other counsel for approval.

25. With respect to non-jury trials, each party shall submit to the District Judge and to opposing counsel proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, trial briefs and any hypothetical questions to be put to an expert witness on direct examination.

26. The original of the Final Pretrial Order shall be delivered to Chambers not later than **forty-eight (48) hours** before the pretrial conference, along with all pretrial submissions and trial briefs. All counsel are responsible for the timely submission of the Pretrial Order and submissions.

27. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS ORDER WILL RESULT IN SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) and 37.**

s/ Joseph A. Dickson
Joseph A. Dickson
United States Magistrate Judge

cc: Jose L. Linares, USDJ